

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a first plate including electron-emitting devices, said electron-emitting devices being formed in an approximate rectangular region;

a second plate ~~having a fluorescent member forming a substantially rectangular region, said second plate being~~ disposed to face said first plate;

a plurality of spacers disposed between said first plate and said second plate, each of said spacers being disposed substantially in parallel with each other and each having a longitudinal axis extending in a lengthwise direction thereof; from one side of said rectangle region to an opposite side of said rectangle region, said spacers being disposed so that said longitudinal axes are substantially in parallel with each other;

an outer frame hermetically surrounding a space between said first plate and said second plate, ~~and~~

a getter disposed between said first plate and said second plate and within the space, and proximate to a side of said outer frame that is positioned across an imaginary extension of said spacers in the longitudinal axis direction thereof, wherein said spacers are disposed so that the longitudinal axis of each spacer is substantially parallel to a longer side of the rectangular region formed by said fluorescent member

wherein ends of each spacer in a longitudinal direction are positioned within an area between said rectangle region and said outer frame; and

at least one getter disposed between said first plate and said second plate, said getter being located in a region interposed between a frame side of said outer frame that is positioned across imaginary extensions of the longitudinal axes of said spacers and said ends facing said frame side of said spacers and being interposed between imaginary extensions of the longitudinal axes of the two outermost spacers.

Claims 10 and 11. (Cancelled).

12. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said getter is a ring-shaped getter.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said electron-emitting devices are field emission type electron-emitting devices.

15. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said electron-emitting devices are surface conduction electron-emitting devices.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Original) The image forming apparatus to claim 9, wherein said getter is disposed on said first plate.